Trade Commissioner in London.

343. MR. V. O. MARKOS : Will the Honourable Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Travancore State has or had appointed a Trade Commissioner in London;

(*b*) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, who is or was that officer;

(*c*) what are or were the functions and duties of such Trade Commissioner;

(*d*) what is or was his remuneration;

(*e*) how long has this appointment been or was in existence;

(*f*) is there any contract as to the period or term of such appointment and if so what is such term or period;

(*g*) what has such Trade Commissioner done so far; and

(*h*) does the Government think of continuing the appointment?

HON'BLE MR. T. M. VARGHESE: (*a*) There was a Trade Commissioner in London for the Travancore Government till February 1948.

(*b*) The officer so appointed was Mr. T. V. A. Easwaran.

(*c*) His functions and duties were:

(i) to carry on publicity work in respect of the State's industrial, agricultural and other products;

(ii) to take steps to expand the export trade of the State with the U. K. and other countries; and

(iii) to act as an agent for the State in respect of the purchase of machinery, stores, etc.

(*d*) His remuneration was Bh. Rs. 2,000 per mensem, free of income-tax.

(*e*) His appointment was on 3rd September 1946 and continued till the 16th February 1948.

(*f*) Yes. The term was for two years subject to termination of 6 months' notice on either side

(*g*) The Trade Commissioner has done the following:

(i) Made periodical publicity of the political and other events of this State;

(ii) Carried on publicity work in respect of this State's agricultural, forest and industrial products;

(iii) Furnished information regarding the prices of mineral sands of this country in the U. K. and U. S. A.; and

(iv) Made enquiries for increasing the import of coir goods in the U. K

(*h*) (vide answers to parts (a) and (b) above.)

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